

THE CORONER

Files His Verdict in Harting Accident.

HE FINDS EVIDENCE OF GROSS NEGLIGENCE

As the News Found to Be the Case at Louisville—The Pennsylvania Company Scored.

Coroner Harry A. March, in his finding in the death of Davidson B. Harting by being run down on the Pennsylvania road, May 23, at the intersection of N. Young street and the Fort Wayne railroad, brings unexpected but ample proof of the truth of investigation made by Councilman Barnett and the News. That the Port Wayne persists in running at a reckless speed, ignoring the rights of the public, by not giving signals and not watching the tracks ahead, is shown in the official report of the coroner. The report was filed in time for publication for the Repository, but that paper conveniently overlooked the whole affair. It is remarkable how quickly the press can see anything complimentary of the road issuing passes to them and how slow they are to find the uncompromising matter.

After following the regular legal forms provided in such cases, Dr. March cuts to the bone of the situation in the following:

"After having heard the evidence, examined the body, and considered the facts and circumstances, I do find that the said deceased came to his death by being struck by a train at the intersection of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago railroad and North Young st., and that the train was running at a very high rate of speed at the time. I am led to believe from the testimony of the engineer that he did not blow his whistle for this crossing, and that the custom of not blowing whistles is common with engineers on this road. From observation, I believe that the crossing is the most dangerous in Canton and should be protected by gates, watchman or signal bells, as has been proposed by the city council, as much foot and wagon traffic crosses North Young and East Second street, their intersection with the railroad being a common one. In about an hour's time I have counted seven trains pass this crossing, three of which did not whistle at all, and four of which did not whistle for this particular crossing. The one whistled for the crossing at Hurford street, a quarter of a mile east. Each of the seven rang their bells continually, however. The trains were all west-bound and two—one passenger and one mail train—came down silently with all steam shut off, making their great speed at this point a menace to public safety on account of the lack of protection and the fact that the approach of the trains is hidden by buildings on both sides. I have no doubt that Mr. Harting's death was in part due to his deafness, but narrow escapes from death at this point are so frequent as to demand immediate attention from authorities and from the railroad company.

Only three witnesses were examined by the coroner, two who saw the accident and W. H. Trumppower, the engineer of the train which killed Mr. Harting. The testimony as given out subscribed by the witnesses, is as follows:

"William H. Trumppower of Loudonville, Ohio, being duly sworn, said: 'I am an unmarried man, and you might say I live anywhere, but my father's home is in Loudonville. I was the engineer on Extra East 742 on Tuesday evening, May 23, running from Mansfield to S. K. tower, at Stark siding. I had just the engine and the caboose and was running backward from Massillon. We were not running very fast through Canton and was pretty slow all the way, as my engine was running hot and I was favoring her all I could. Only a trip or two after that she was sent to the shop for repairs. When we struck this man I noticed that my cylinder cock came open, and thought that the bar had dropped down, and did not know that we had hit a man until we reached the siding. I got down to fix the cock and saw that nothing was broken and after the fireman took water I backed up into the yard and got down to finish fixing. The fireman goes back to get his lamp and gets down off the tank and sees the man's hat on the tank truck box. He says, 'You struck a man down there,' and showed me the hat. Then I found the upper part of the man's pants on the caboose-brake, with little pieces of flesh sticking around one place and another. Then I came back to the siding where the accident happened. We do not run any faster with a light train than with a heavy one, purposely. We have no regular speed. We do not dash through Canton, as we must slow for the other railroad crossings. We do not whistle for every crossing in Canton. I always whistle at the target at the Wheeling & Lake Erie crossing, and that ought to count for a couple of crossings. The air bell was ringing all through town that night, but it did not work to perfection, but I kept it on to help the fireman out. I am sure that the bell was ringing, for it was

still ringing when we were taking water at Stark siding.'

"Florence M. Bock, of 404 Rowland st., Canton, O., being duly sworn, stated that: 'In company with Evaline Nettro, I was coming across the commons at the corner of East Second st. and North Young st. We had just come from Eva's sister's place, Mr. Weaver. As we were quite near the track I heard the engine coming down very fast. It was running backward. I do not think the men on the engine rang the bell or blew the whistle. As it reached the crossing Eva screamed out and said it hit a man. We soon learned that it was Mr. Harting who had been struck. The men came and took the body, and Mr. Carey came and ordered the ambulance. Mr. Harting was quite dead, and that may have kept him from hearing the train. That's all I know about the accident.'

"Miss Eva Nettro, of Canton, Ohio, being duly sworn, said: 'I live at No. 410 Rowland street. We were coming across the commons together, Florence Bock and I, and I looked up and saw the man rolling in front of the engine. The tender was running in front of the engine and the caboose behind. I did not see it strike Mr. Harting. I heard the engine approaching, but I did not hear the bell ring or whistle. After I saw him struck I saw him cut to pieces by the engine, which went on and did not stop. The engine was fast, real fast. I have noticed many engines going past that crossing without whistling or ringing. More accidents happen at that crossing than any other, as it is very dangerous. As soon as the engine got past I started to yell and went over to the track. Mr. George Snyder came and told us who it was who was killed. I knew Mr. Harting when I saw him, but was not personally acquainted with him.'

COUNTY TAX LEVY IS NOT CHANGED

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION HAS A MEETING.

Commissioners Allow Sums to the Canton and Massillon Humane Societies—Other Matters of Interest.

The total tax levy for the county was fixed Monday by County Commissioners Hay, Hill and Burnheimer and County Auditor Oberlin, as the board of equalization, at 5.95 mills, the same as last year.

The levy is divided as follows: County fund, 1.7; bridge fund, 1.1; poor fund, .15; children's home, .3; soldiers' relief, .3; workhouse and agricultural society, 2; judicial, .1; interest and debt, 1.2; building, .5; election, .2; state and county roads, .2.

The state levy will be 1.35 mills, also the same as last year.

The board took one-tenth of a mill from the building fund and distributed it equally between the poor fund and soldiers' relief fund.

ALLOWANCE FOR DOCTORS. In addition to the regular bills, the board allowed fees of \$10 each to Drs. J. P. Dewitt, A. B. Walker and J. F. Kahler, as expert witnesses in the case of the state vs. Dr. Exline.

AID IS GIVEN.

The Canton and Massillon Human societies have been given aid by the commissioners for the first time. Amounts from the dog fund will be used, \$800 going to the Canton society and \$500 to Massillon. The money is to be used to cover expenses for the current and ensuing year. An amended law gives the board the right to divide this fund between humane societies and the schools of the county. The latter, it is thought, will receive about \$2,000.

MINOR MATTERS.

A petition for a road by Fred. Albrecht et al was read for the second time.

The road petition by G. F. Rau et al was read for the first time. In the matter of the road petitioned for by Bear et al, the commissioners find the viewers did not allow compensation for land taken from Jacob H. Walker. They also find from the engineer's report the amount of land taken to be 2 1/2-10 acres, for which the commissioners agree to pay at the rate of \$75 per acre.

J. W. Tetter's time as trustee of the Fairmount Children's Home having expired, he is again appointed for the term of five years.

No Money For Policemen.

Salineville, June 12.—The tax levy for the village for the coming year did not contain any levy for the police fund of the village, and the question of borrowing money or doing without a policeman will be confronted by council. There is a small amount of money in the fund at present and when this is exhausted the question will be met. The shortage in the funds of the village was caused by the voting of local option in the town, when over \$2,000 was lost to the village and which paid the marshal's and police salary. After figuring as low as possible the finance committee of council decided to cut the police fund levy out and take care of the salary each month as it came up. The present marshal will hold his office until January by extension of time by statute and the council cannot discharge as he will draw his salary anyway.

GROVER CLEVELAND SENDS HOT LETTER

TO NEW BOSS OF THE EQUITABLE LIFE.

At the Same Time He Accepts His Share of Trusteeship Imposed by Hyde.

New York, June 12.—Although today was a momentous one in the history of the Equitable Life Assurance Society by reason of the fact that Paul Morton assumed active charge of its affairs, the overshadowing happening was the publication of a peppery letter denouncing irresponsible life insurance officials from former President Grover Cleveland to Thomas F. Ryan in which he accepted the trusteeship of the majority of the company's stock.

The letter, which is dated Princeton, N. J., June 10, reads:

"I have this morning received your letter, asking me to act as one of the three trustees to hold the stock of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, which has lately been acquired by you and certain associates, and to use the voting power of such stock in the selection of directors of said society.

"After a little reflection I have determined I ought to accept this service. I assume this duty upon the express condition that, so far as the trustees are to be vested with discretion in the selection of directors, they are to be absolutely free and undisturbed in the exercise of their judgment; and that, so far as they are to act formally in voting for the directors conceded to policy holders, a fair and undoubted expression of policy holding choice will be forthcoming.

"The very general anxiety aroused by the recent unhappy dissensions in the management of the Equitable Society furnishes proof of the near relationship of our people to life insurance. These dissensions have not only injured the fair fame of the company immediately affected, but have impaired popular faith and confidence in the security of life insurance itself, as a provision for those who, in thousands of cases, would be otherwise helpless against the afflictive visitations of fate.

"The character of this business is such that those who manage and who direct it are charged with a grave trust for those who, necessarily, must rely upon their fidelity. In these circumstances they have no right to regard the places they hold as ornamental, but rather as positions of work and duty and watchfulness. Above all things, they have no right to deal with the interests entrusted to them in such a way as to subvert or become confused or complicated with their personal transactions or ventures.

"While the hope that I might aid in improving the plight of the Equitable Society has led me to accept the trusteeship you tender, I cannot rid myself of the belief that what has overtaken this company, is liable to happen to other insurance companies and fiduciary organizations as long as lax ideas of responsibility in places of trust are tolerated by our people. The high pressure of speculation, the madness of inordinate business schemes, and the chances taken in new and uncertain enterprises are constantly present temptations, too often successful in leading managers and directors away from scrupulous loyalty and fidelity to the interests of others confided to their care.

"We can better afford to slacken our pace than to abandon our old, simple, American standards of honesty; and we shall be safer if we regain our own old habits of looking at the appropriation to personal uses of property and interests held in trust in the same light as other forms of stealing."

Replying to Mr. Cleveland's letter of acceptance, Mr. Ryan, under date of today, wrote as follows:

"I have your letter of the 10th inst., in which you formally accept the appointment to act as one of the trustees of a majority of the stock of the Equitable Life Assurance Society. I heartily concur in the sentiments you express and in your statement of the purpose to be accomplished by placing this stock in the hands of yourself, Judge O'Brien and Mr. Westinghouse, as trustees, in order that the directors of the society may be selected by the trustees absolutely in accordance with their own judgment and the wishes of the policy holders.

"Thanking you for the personal sacrifice which you have made in undertaking to perform this important public duty, I am, very truly yours, 'THOMAS F. RYAN.'

A Pleasant Gathering.

New Philadelphia, June 12.—A happy reunion at the home of B. F. Bevan and wife, East Ray street, this city, was witnessed Sunday. There was Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Eckroad of Dalton, a sister of B. F. Bevan and H. P. Bevan of Cambridge Springs, Pa.; B. F. Sharrett and wife. Mrs. Sharrett being the sister of Mrs. Bevan. Dalla Sharrett of Stone Creek, Wm. Bevan, and son of Wier City, Kas.; D. W. Bevan, and two daughters, and a son of Vickers. The Bevan family is an old one in this county. There was plenty of edibles and interesting talks of the pleasant times in days gone by. Henry Bevan returned to Cambridge Springs where he is interested in real estate.

APOTHEOSIS OF EQUITABLE LIFE

ITS ELEVATION FROM HYDE TO RYAN.

Will Eliminate Subsidiary Companies and Result in Power Second Only to Standard Oil.

New York, June 12.—Thomas F. Ryan's purchase of the Hyde stock contemplates the elimination from the Equitable Life business control of all the subsidiary companies, according to a friend very close to the purchaser. This is to speedily result in the consolidation of the Equitable Trust Co., the Mercantile Trust Co. and Morton Trust Co. (Ryan's own institution), with the last named, of course, in control.

This would mean the largest and most powerful trust company in the United States, and one of the most powerful financial institutions in the world. The consolidation of the Mercantile and Equitable Trust companies was arranged by Mr. Hyde last year, but the row prevented its consummation.

The combined resources of the three companies would aggregate the enormous sum of \$178,000,000. The Equitable and Mercantile Trust companies are controlled absolutely by the Equitable Life. The Morton Trust Co. is controlled by Mr. Ryan and some of his associates. It was organized out of the old established banking house of Morton, Bliss & Co.

The president of the company is Levi P. Morton, ex-vice president of the United States. The directory includes R. A. McCurdy, president of the Mutual Life Insurance Co.; Elihu Root, John Jacob Astor, George F. Baker, president of the First National bank; Frederick Cornwall, treasurer of the Mutual Life Insurance Co.; James B. Duke, the tobacco king; Henry M. Flagler and Harry Payne Whitney.

It is evident from the names of these directors how far reaching Mr. Ryan's coup is. In fact, it was generally conceded in Wall street that it means a close working alliance between the three big insurance companies for their mutual benefit, and that the Morgan and First National bank interests were in alliance with Mr. Ryan and his associates, chief of whom are the interests identified with the Mutual Life Insurance Co.

The directors of the Equitable and Mercantile Trust companies are a no less eminent body of financiers, and many of the interests represented by them are equally represented in the other companies.

Next to the National City bank, the combination of the three trust companies, when consummated, will make the largest financial institution in the world, excluding, of course, the government banks of Europe. The total deposits of the three companies, according to the latest deductions, are in excess of \$140,000,000.

CLAY PRODUCTS

As Set Forth by United States Geological Survey.

Washington, D. C., June 12.—The United States geological survey has now in press a report of the statistics of the clay working industry of the United States in 1904, which shows that the value of the clay products in that year was \$131,023,248, made up as follows: Brick and tile and the coarser products, \$105,864,978; pottery and the finer products, \$25,158,270.

These figures are practically the same as those for 1903, when the total value of the clay products was \$131,062,421. The building and paving brick industries showed small increases in 1904 over 1903. The fire brick industry in 1904 showed a decrease of nearly 21 per cent, owing to the falling off in the iron industry, where fire brick finds its chief use. The value of the pottery products during the year, contrary to the general expectation of the trade, showed only a slight decrease, from \$25,436,052 in 1903 to \$25,158,270 in 1904.

PASTOR PLANNED CHURCH

And Then Superintended Its Construction at Canal Dover.

The Methodist church, which has just been completed after two years of work, was dedicated Sunday at Canal Dover. Rev. W. H. Parr of Philadelphia, Pa., delivered the dedicatory sermon. Rev. W. H. Sargeant has been pastor of the church for nearly three years. He himself planned the new building and personally superintended the construction of it. The cost will approximate \$18,000.

Galicia's First Lynching.

Podolia, Austria-Hungary, June 12.—The first lynching in the province of Galicia took place yesterday, when a band of peasants assaulted the prison and took from it a thief who had been terrorizing the country. A volley of bullets was fired into the thief's body and it was then hanged to a tree.

Hotel Clerk Got Gay.

Indianapolis, Ind., June 12.—Phillip Reed, a hotel clerk of Albany, N. Y., was arrested today for the embezzlement of \$4,000 from his employers. He confessed. He had been spending \$600 a week for six weeks.

CORRESPONDENCE.

North Industry, O., June 12.—The festival at the Christian church was well attended, but owing to the weather being chilly the receipts were not as large as might have been expected.

The people of North Industry are expecting a rare treat on next Saturday evening when Hiram Doll will tell his war stories at Bates hall. Mr. Doll is a veteran of the Civil war and his stories of camp and prison life are well worth hearing. Mr. Doll especially desires to meet all old comrades on that evening at the hall. The lecture will be given for the benefit of the Union Christian association. A small admittance fee will be charged, children half price, and all old soldiers admitted free of charge.

On next Sunday evening a Christian endeavor will be organized at Bates hall. Every body is cordially invited to attend and take part in this organization.

Dr. W. A. Becher was called to see Mrs. Hoffman last evening. She was taken sick Sunday afternoon.

Paul Vogle had a severe attack of his old trouble on Saturday afternoon but is feeling pretty well again. Strawberries are reported as being a short crop in this neighborhood.

Children's day will be observed at Mt. Zion next Sunday afternoon, and at the Lutheran church the following Sunday.

A young son of Mrs. Ed. Kinses is seriously ill with blood poisoning. He lived with his grandfather in Canton.

Canal Fulton O., June 12.—John Hammer has purchased the livery barn formerly owned by J. H. Porter. Neicher brothers will still continue to conduct the business.

Material has been delivered on the site for a new dwelling to be erected for Carl Myers opposite the Catholic church.

Mrs. Samuel Myers and children, of Uniontown, visited at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Well the past week.

Daniel Harman, John Ronnan and Jacob Dillman, were called to Canton on Friday to receive the tickets for the Democratic primary election held on Saturday, there being one for each of the three precincts that vote at this place. Forty nine votes were cast in the village precinct of this primary. A contest for councilmen was the reason for this large vote.

Daniel Harman was nominated township trustee; Henry Devalt for assessor in precinct A, and William Evans in precinct B; Oliver Keller for village mayor; Edward Neichter clerk; Henry Wagner, treasurer; Albert Neichter, assessor; William Hammer, William Labbe and Leo Walzer, Councilmen; W. E. Young, councilman, short term. The vote in the county precincts was very light.

C. A. Brown and family visited friends at West Lebanon on Saturday. John Kitt, of Massillon, visited this, his former home Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Ruch, of Massillon, visited at the home of Lewis Ruch on Sunday.

Margaret Hullinger, of Massillon, visited her grandmother, Mrs. Mary Lasure, on Sunday.

Mrs. William Tromp, of Cleveland, spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Stock.

Rev. C. E. Miller president of Heidelberg university, delivered the baccalaureate sermon in the Reformed church on Sunday.

Commencement exercises will be held on Thursday evening when a class of three boys and two girls will be graduated.

New Berlin O., June 12.—The Patterson commencement of the Plain township class was held in the Union church on Friday in charge of O. J. Evans, clerk. There was a very large audience, filling every available space. The following graduates took part: Russell H. Druckenbrode, Margaret Lind, Glen O. Smith, Owen Grise, Myrtle Cornell, Hubert Hibsman, Gertrude Smith, Ruth Pontius, and Hugo Wise. They acquitted themselves well. The program was interspersed with vocal and instrumental music. Miss Ella Giedlinger played the march and accompanied as pianist Misses Beasie and Jessie Evans in two duets. A solo was sung by Miss Eulalie Pierson. Archibald Swope entertained with three solos, Miss Jennie Swope accompanied. A violin solo was nicely rendered by Ollie Deetz with Miss Ruby Hess as pianist. The class address was made by W. H. Hoover, president of New Berlin board of education and the presentation of diplomas was made by E. R. Mathie, president of Plain township board of education.

The band festival on account of the weather was held in the hall on Saturday evening. It was very well patronized and netted a neat sum.

The Fry reunion was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Schiltz. There were about 70 present. The weather cut into the attendance. A pleasant time was enjoyed by all.

Rev. J. P. Stahl, of Canal Winchester, O., was calling on old friends here the latter part of the week. He was formerly pastor of the Reformed church, leaving here about nine years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Schiltz and daughter, Miss Mildy, and Mrs. E. B. Schiltz spent Sunday in Columbus visiting Mrs. C. F. Schiltz.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Schick were visiting friends in Akron over Sunday.

G. W. Sponseller is confined to the house with rheumatism.

The festival of St. Paul's church will be held Thursday.

ONCE THERE WAS A MAN CLEARED

BY A JURY ON A VERY SERIOUS CHARGE.

First Time in Nine Years in Stark County—Woman With Ten Children Asks Divorce.

For the first time in nine years the defendant in a bastardy case has been given a verdict by a Stark county jury.

The case was that of the state of Ohio on the relation of John J. White against May Neiswonger, and was tried in Judge Ambler's court. The parties are from New Franklin, and the plaintiff, who is said to be about 15, accused Smith. The jury, after hearing the evidence, brought in a verdict for the defendant.

HAVE TEN CHILDREN.

Elizabeth Mooch, through Attorney W. J. Piero, has filed suit for a divorce from Henry Mooch. Plaintiff states that they were married July 15, 1872, at Massillon, and have ten children. Cruel treatment is alleged. Plaintiff asks for the custody of the minor children and that about 20 acres in Perry township be given her.

STATE CASE BEGUN.

In Judge Haer's court, Monday, the case of the state of Ohio vs. William Stull was begun. The defendant is accused of breaking into the property of R. P. Cassidy near Minerva and stealing several articles.

VERDICT FOR PLAINTIFF.

In the replevin suit of Oliver vs. Dornce, the jury returned a verdict of \$100 for the plaintiff.

THE MERCHANT WON.

In the case of the Aldine Co. of Grand Rapids vs. Leo Abt, Ambler held that no contract existed and dismissed the case.

GIVEN ALIMONY.

In the common pleas court, Monday, in the divorce case of Bertha Duncan vs. Burn Duncan, Judge Harter allowed the plaintiff \$50 alimony pending litigation.

USED NAME OF STANDARD OIL

AND WORKED OFF MANY BOGUS CHECKS.

Tens of Thousands of Dollars Secured by a Clever and Artistic Swindle.

Indianapolis, Ind., June 12.—Wholesale check swindles, probably amounting to tens of thousands of dollars, have been discovered in the Indiana oil field, and F. S. Davis, a treasurer of the Standard Oil Co., has been sent from New York to Marion, Ind., to investigate.

The checks have been cashed by wholesale throughout the entire field. They are exact duplicate of the Standard Oil check, and the signature of Mr. Davis is so good an imitation that the counterfeit can be told only with the microscope.

It is said that similar checks are coming into the Standard Oil offices in New York from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky.

Numbers of local merchants at Marion, Ind., hold checks which they have cashed and on which they will lose. At Vanburen, Ind., both bankers and merchants are excited over the fraud which has been discovered. Numerous bogus checks were cashed there. They all appeared to have been May pay-roll checks and were cashed by grocers, saloon keepers and others.

Banks at Marion, Montpelier, Up-land, Bluffton and Fairmount are said to have been hit hard. The work appears to be that of a band of skilled checked forgers, operating within a few days over a wide section of country.

CANTON BIDDERS

For the New Fire Department Building at Alliance.

At noon Monday the Alliance board of public safety opened ten bids for the work of constructing the new fire department building recently authorized by the city council. Of them, only four were for the complete job, and they were as follows:

A. Casteel & Co., Canton \$15,629.42
J. C. Devine, Alliance 17,080.00
Keller, Huff & J. K. Auld, Canton 15,450.00
J. S. Kleinfelter 7,441.19

The other bids were only for parts of the contract, and as it was considered a job to tabulate the bids the contract was not let today.

One Boy Shoots Another.

Long Island City, June 12.—Henry Daken, 19 years old, was shot in the temple by Joseph Nedvad, 14 years of age and instantly killed.

Daken was playing baseball and had a bat in his hand at which Nedvad fired with a rifle to see if he could hit it and the bullet hit Daken in the head. Nedvad was arrested by the Long Island police on a charge of manslaughter. He was so shocked at the accident that it was found necessary to give him medical attendance before he was locked up.